GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3432
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2006
FOREST FIRE
Channappa Shri Kunnur Manjunath

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fire in the Kapat Guda area in Karnataka has destroyed more than 100 hectares of forest and;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to avoid such incidents in future?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) About 500 ha. of thorny bushes and grass land forest has been affected by the fire incident. The Kappatgudda forest (about 24,000 ha.) is surrounded with a number of temples which are visited by thousands of devotees. Hence, these areas are prone to fire occurrences caused due to negligence of pilgrims.

(c) The following steps have been taken to avoid such incidents in future:

1. Clearing and formation of new fire lines.

2. Clearing the existing fire line and fire tracing in the areas of thick under growth.

3. Awareness programmes for general public through media, street plays, handbills etc. in local language.

4. Involvement of local communities in protection,conservation & management of natural resources through formation o f village protection committees.